Meeting Notes

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM NORTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS GROUP

Thursday, August 1, 2002 at 9:30 am in room 1142

ATTENDANCE LIST:

Margit Aramburu	DPC
Gilbert Cosio	MBK Engineers
Bill Darsie	KSN, Inc.
Rosalie Del Rosario	NOAA Fisheries
Aimee Dour-Smith	Jones and Stokes
Mike Eaton	The Nature Conservancy
Sam Garcia	Jones & Stokes
Dan Gwaltney	County of Sacramento
Walter Hoppe	Point Pleasant
Chris Kimball	DWR
Gwen Knittweis	DWR North Delta
Grant Kreinberg	SAFCA
Gil Labrie	DCC Engineering
Roger Lee	DWR / Rec. Board
Sara Martin	Jones & Stokes
Kris Nehmer	KSN, Inc.
Bob Nozuka	DWR
Darrel Ramus	KSN, Inc.
Edward Schmit	DWR
Curt Schmutte	DWR
Don Trieu	MBK Engineers
Topper Van Loeben Sels	NDWA, DPC
Keith Whitener	The Nature Conservancy
Collette Zemitis	DWR

HANDOUTS

- Previous Meeting Notes
- July's E-Mail Update
- Meeting Agenda
- McCormack-Williamson Tract Breach Scenarios
- PPT Slides: Establishment and Maintenance of Bench Mark and Tide Gage Integrity in the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Map: Gage Locations for Mokelumne-Cosumnes Region

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME – Aimee Dour-Smith, Jones & Stokes

A new addition to the DWR North Delta management team was introduced: Curt Schmutte, who has transferred over from Suisun Marsh management. He explained to the group that his goal is to move the project along quickly, and his focus will be identifying key science issues and

uncertainties, as well as methods of clarifying those issues.

2. UPDATE ON HYDRAULIC MODEL AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS – Don Trieu, MBK

MBK is still working on stability issues with the HEC-RAS model. They have met with HEC, who have suggested some changes as well as informed MBK about some of the known limitations of the HEC-RAS modeling system. MBK will be meeting with HEC again the week of August 12 to share more information.

MBK is considering splitting the model into two sections: (1) Michigan Bar to Hwy 99 and (2) rest of the study area. The reasoning behind this split is to isolate the stability issues, which are mainly occurring in the Upper Cosumnes region. They hope to have the Upper Cosumnes stability issues resolved by the time the Corps begins their Mokelumne Feasibility Study in 4-5 months.

They do have a fallback model, which utilizes an older version of UNET. However, the UNET model has its own limitations, such as difficulty in making changes to the model for evaluating alternatives once it is completed.

The Peer Review Panel is currently evaluating the model as well as the supporting documentation provided by MBK. The Panel is a highly-esteemed and knowledgeable team; the members include:

Panelist	Affiliation	Area of Expertise
Joe DeVries (Chair)	David Ford Consulting Engineers	UNET and HEC
Jeff Harris	USACE	UNET and HEC
Pete Smith	USGS	3-D modeling
Bruce Larock	UCD/Consultant	Hydraulic sediment transport
Steven Monismith	Stanford University	Geophysical fluid dynamics

Once the model is calibrated and the stability issues are resolved, MBK will present the model to the NDIG.

Gwen pointed out that although the model is falling behind schedule, the North Delta team still hopes to begin the public scoping process in October.

3. UPDATE ON TNC'S PLANS FOR MCCORMACK-WILLIAMSON TRACT & UCD'S MODELING EFFORT – Keith Whitener, TNC

UCD is using the MIKE-11 model to simulate restoration scenarios for the McCormack-Williamson project. They have completed the sensitivity analysis, and are now running the 8 scenarios that are still under consideration (each scenario will be run on the model with and without the ring levee that protects the Hearst-Argyle Television Tower). Some of these scenarios may not be feasible to implement (cost, too much deep-water habitat, etc.), but are being left in the running for now as UCD's model runs are looking at the alternatives from a purely scientific standpoint. TNC's goal is to deliver 3 preferred scenarios to Jones & Stokes by late August/early September for inclusion in the larger North Delta EIR/EIS.

4. UPDATE ON CONTROL NETWORK UPGRADES – Bob Nozuka, DWR

Currently, there are over 90 tide and flow data collection facilities in the Delta run by various agencies (USGS, ESO, DWR, USBR). However, the existing benchmarks for these stations are calibrated to different datums, which means inconsistency can be an issue. Using the same datum is important for consistency in modeling (data input and calibration), for farmers who depend on a certain head for pumping and water quality, as well as for ecosystem restoration, flood warning, levee program planning, and subsidence monitoring. DWR Central District, ESO, and USGS have recognized the need to benchmark consistently, so have proposed to CALFED a network maintenance schedule to update the benchmarks to the NAVD 88 at the 2002 epoch, with a goal of creating a continuous program, cycling every three years. The three-year schedule would entail:

- Year 1: GPS Survey
- Year 2: Estimation of absolute subsidence
- Year 3: Subsidence mapping/change detection

After CSRC validates the data resulting from this project, NGS will publish it in "Blue Book" form. For the sort term, however, the data will be available on the DWR website.

5. STATUS OF GAGES IN THE NORTH DELTA AREA – Gwen Knittweis, DWR

Gwen Knittweis provided the group with a map showing locations of existing gages in the Cosumnes-Mokelumne region and a chart showing who maintains the gages as well as where the gage data is available. DWR will be cutting funding for 8 Sacramento County stream flow and stage gages in the vicinity of Hwy 99. However, Gwen pointed out that there is some funding available through the CALFED Watershed Program for refurbishing gages if anyone is interested in taking over. Gwen will be happy to give out contact information for the Watershed Program Director, John Lowrie, to anyone who is interested.

6. OTHER PROJECT NEWS

- **Federal Lead Agency** – The North Delta team is currently exploring options and financial opportunities with Corps Planning, as well as working out scheduling issues. Curt Schmutte and Gwen Knittweis are working with Corps Planning to try and stick as closely as possible to the original North Delta Schedule.

- **Project Area Aerial Photos** – Jones & Stokes has just received the georeferenced digital aerial photos of the project area, which were flown in June. This allows work to begin on existing conditions analyses.

- **Elk Grove City Limits** – The city of Elk Grove has formed a new council to redraw the city limits boundaries as part of a General Plan development process. Their proposed city boundaries are encroaching more than expected into the Cosumnes area (including development south to Twin Cities Road). An effort is being made to bring an Elk Grove

representative to subsequent NDIG meetings. For more detail, visit www.elkgrovecity.gov.

7. NEXT MEETING:

The next NDIG meeting is scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, October 3, 2002**, in room 1142 at CALFED offices.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
1	Bring map that shows aerial photo coverage to next NDIG meeting	Aimee Dour-Smith	For next NDIG meeting
2	Update group on the 2 proposed Sacramento County gages on the Cosumnes at next NDIG meeting	Craig Crouch	For next NDIG meeting
3	Follow up on information about the Dry Creek gage	Gwen Knittweis	For next NDIG meeting
4	Encourage Elk Grove to send a representative to the next NDIG meetings	Jones & Stokes	For next NDIG meeting